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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

F. Abel Ponce de Leon et al.

Group Art Unit: 1633

Application No. 09/127,624

Examiner: M. Wilson

Filed: August 3, 1998

Title: PROLONGED CULTURING OF AVIAN (CHICKEN) PRIMORDIAL GERM CELLS (PGCs) USING SPECIFIC GROWTH FACTORS, USE THEREOF TO PRODUCE CHIMERIC AVIANS (CHICKENS)

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AMENDMENT AND REPLY

RECEIVED

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This reply is responsive to the Office Action dated December 2, 2002. Kindly enter the following amendments and remarks prior to further examination.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 32, 38, 41, and 42 are canceled; claims 1 and 33 are amended; and new claims 43-46 are added, as shown below:

-- 1. (Thrice Amended) A method for culturing avian primordial germ cells comprising maintaining said avian primordial germ cells for periods of at least fourteen days in tissue culture comprising the following steps:

- (i) isolating primordial germ cells from a desired avian; and
(ii) exposing said isolated primordial germ cells (PGCs) to at least the following growth factors in amounts sufficient to maintain said PGCs for at least fourteen days in culture:
- (1) leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF),
 - (2) basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF),
 - (3) stem cell factor (SCF), and
 - (4) insulin-like growth factor (IGF).